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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1906.

What Will the People Say to It?

A world power! A strong centralized government! Subordination of the States! A paternal eye upon everything! Executive rule in Cuba! Colonial possessions governed from Washington!

Is this the American Republic?

The Hon. Elihu Root is the ablest man that has come upon the public stage in two decades. We respect and honor him. He has rightly been regarded as one of the most potent forces for safety in the administration. But the speech he made in New York on Wednesday night is as amazing as any utterance of William Jennings Bryan or Thomas Watson—amazing because of its boldness. Admitting every word of it to be true, as to the present state of affairs, think of the American premier feeling called upon to proclaim such doctrine to the world!

He deprecates conditions which have brought about the demand for governmental centralization, but are they otherwise incurable? Are the States so feeble, so lax in meeting emergencies, so powerless when confronted with important problems, that the time is come when the nation must assume the reins of government? Is this the system under which we have waxed great and strong, after all, a failure? Have we really outgrown the Constitution?

Secretary Root has forced home to the people a startling situation. The drift of things has long been all too apparent to observing men. It is no longer a drift. The time for theorizing has passed. Are the people ready for a change in our form of government? Are the sovereign States ready for it? What will sober-minded Americans say in the final analysis?

It is the honest opinion of this newspaper that even so able a man as Elihu Root cannot bring his countrymen to his way of thinking on the subject. Theodore Roosevelt himself cannot do it.

That clerkman who advised the negroes to move to the "doubtful States of the North" could do a turn that would be appreciated by furnishing Congressmen Jim Griggs with a full list of such States.

Trying It on the District.

While in perfect sympathy with every movement toward uplifting and morally improving this community, we regret to see on the part of certain people a desire to make Washington the experimental ground for fads and theories. Many of the propositions submitted are of a doubtful as to wisdom. In some instances legislation which has been enacted has been shown to be crude and ill-digested, with many difficulties in the way of practical administration. Agencies are actively at work devising new schemes for legislative enactment, and if they all become laws, we will have in Washington the most thoroughly law-ridden community in the world. Here zealous reformers can reach the ear of Congress easily, and as the people of the District are long-suffering and complacent, we may find ourselves regulated by outsiders. No one objects to reasonable and sane laws, but Congress should take time to examine carefully into the propositions which are being daily submitted at a remarkable rate.

A reunion of the Ancient and Honorable Association of Ananias seems about due.

Our Trade with China.

There is no doubt that the last few months have seen an enormous awakening of commercial China. This is due partly to the persistent efforts of the Japanese, who have, since the war, been very active in sending their agents throughout the Chinese ports, establishing agencies, and making a bid for the trade of the country. To keep up with the pace this set, English, German, and United States agents have awakened, and there is strong competition for the trade.

It is very evident that in some respects Japan has the best of us in her nearness to this rapidly growing market, and if we are not to see this field slip away from us entirely it behooves us to be particularly careful. Present methods of doing business with the Chinese will have to be revised. John Fowler, our consul at Chefoo, which is the principal commercial port of Northern China, supplying the fruitful Shantung province, gives three instances of bad business on the part of American firms, business dealings of a sort which plays right into the hands of our competitors. In one case a shipment of New York mirrors made to Chefoo was so insecurely packed that out of a total of ninety pieces, thirty-three were found to be smashed and useless. A firm on the Pacific Coast sent to Chefoo on order a large consignment of bottled beer which, on examination, was found to contain so much foreign matter that it was unmerchantable. The third case had to do with a cargo of flour, which proved to be greatly inferior to sample, and the American firm who shipped it refused to make an allowance for its error.

Now, these are not the complaints of Chinese unsupported. In Chefoo, where there are complaints against foreign firms, they must be submitted to the foreign consul, who then appoints a board of survey—all foreigners, if he chooses—and the report of this board furnishes the equity in the case. All three of these cases mentioned were surveyed by a consular board, and the complaints were found to be just. Germany has long since recognized that this business of exporting to countries like China is much more than the business of the individual exporter, for the chicanery

or wrong-doing of one merchant may give a fatal blow to the whole export trade of a province. Therefore, Germany has boards of survey who supervise the export trade and seek to correct such evils as those which Consul-General Fowler points out.

The time has passed when any old thing is good enough for China. Her merchants are as shrewd as any in the world; close buyers, perhaps, but just, and their words, in business, are absolutely to be relied upon. With so many would-be sellers knocking at their door, they have no need to go begging for custom, and it behooves the American merchant to make special and honest efforts to hold this important trade in line.

The House stands bravely by the dictionary, but isn't apt to get any Carnegie medals for it.

Economy—And Economy.

Viewed in the light of dispassionate and unprejudiced judgment, the action of the members of the House in practically voting to themselves \$1,800 a year under the guise of clerk hire does not seem to be altogether creditable. In the first place, \$1,200 a year for a clerk is as much as the average government clerk receives, and more than is generally paid to clerks in private business. The increase has not half as much to commend it as is urged upon Congress by the heads of departments when they seek to get a little more money for underpaid government employees.

If the clerks were really employed, there might be some excuse for the expenditure. As a matter of fact, the Representatives have deliberately decided—but not upon a roll call or other public record—that they shall not be required to certify that they expended the money for clerk hire. They have voted to themselves an addition of \$1,800, and the money is obtained under conditions which ought to make every self-respecting Congressman suffer with an uneasy conscience. If this money is to go for legitimate clerical assistance, why not make the record clear? Let the names of the clerks go upon the pay rolls, let their receipts be duly given, and make it illegal for them to hand over to their Representatives any portion of the amount which they draw as a salary. It would be interesting to see how quickly the concern of the Representatives in this \$1,800 would cease if this were done.

We hear much of economy at the Capitol. There is an uplifting of hands in holy horror whenever a poor charwoman appeals for an increase of \$5 per month, and an exhibition of righteous indignation when some clerk seeks more liberal recognition. This regard for economy seems to disappear, however, when there is a chance to slip a few more dollars into Congressional pockets.

All honor to Oscar W. Underwood, of Alabama, and the eleven Congressmen who stood up with him in protest against a wrong and an unjust thing. They were in the minority, but they were right.

California also wants it distinctly understood that the bear on the State seal isn't a Roosevelt bear.

California and the Japanese.

Was Secretary of Root thinking of California and the Japanese question when he said in his address before the Pennsylvania Society of New York, that "no state can live unto itself alone and regulate its affairs with sole reference to its own treasury, its own convenience, its own special interests?"

"Every State," the Secretary tell us, "is bound to frame its legislation and its administration with reference not only to its own special affairs, but with reference to the effect upon all its sister States."

If these maxims of political conduct were intended to apply to the course of California with respect to the education of Japanese in separate schools, we think they ignore a very important element in the relations of the Federal and the State governments, namely, the guardianship of the former over the latter. There are Federal obligations as well as State rights. From this point of view Mr. Root's maxims might be reversed with equal, and we are inclined to think justly, applicability to the California situation. Suppose Mr. Root had said that the Federal government has no right to conduct its foreign affairs without reference to the interests of particular States, and that no Secretary of State had any business negotiating a treaty which ignored the constitutional distribution of power between the Federal government and the States, would he not have come nearer to an accurate statement of the rule which should govern our national course of action? In other words, have not the States as much right to ask that their special interests be regarded by the national government as the national government has to demand that the national interests shall be regarded by the States? In this Japanese case, the administration has seen fit to champion the cause of a foreign country as against the legislation of one of the States of the union—legislation that in itself is not injurious to any American interest or repugnant to any principle of our American institutions. If Mr. Root's theory as to the duties of the States were accepted by California, she would regulate her educational affairs, not with regard to her own interests, but in accordance with the views of the Secretary of State, who thinks the interpretation of an ambiguous treaty in such a way as to place the susceptibilities of a foreign nation of more importance to the national welfare than the preservation of our domestic institutions and the sustentation of domestic legislation intended to promote public morals.

We do not think this conception of the functions of the Secretary of State defensible or constitutional. Cannot our foreign relations be maintained without subordinating the structure of our government?

"I am done," says Bellamy Storer. Well done, in fact.

The Post-office Department.

The proposition put forward by a Chicago capitalist to take over the post-office business from the United States for the purpose of operating that important branch of the country's commercial interests through a \$50,000,000 corporation is a big scheme, and has attracted considerable attention. The offer seems to be made in good faith, and there is no reason to think that its promoters would not seriously attempt to carry it through, should Uncle Sam accept.

The inducements offered, however, are not so very alluring as one would like. The first inducement is, of course, the inevitable one "that it would take the department out of politics; the other—cheaper postage. Unfortunately for the parties behind this ambitious undertaking, it would be hard to convince the people at large that any such results would be forthcoming. The light of past history gives promise of no such good luck. Express companies are conducted just along the very lines that the Chicago

people set up for conducting the Post-office Department, and yet express charges are—well, anything but cheap, at all events. Neither are the express companies out of politics. If any one believes that the express companies are "out of politics," let him get some Congressman to introduce a parcels-post bill, and then sit off to one side and watch it get enacted into a law. If he isn't convinced within a reasonable length of time that the companies are in politics, and in "good and strong," we will miss our guess.

Again, considering the efficiency of the service, the contrasting of that of the express companies with that of the Post-office Department gives far and away the best of the criticism to the latter. The sphere of delivery maintained by the express companies is very limited, indeed. The Post-office Department reaches the remotest farmer, and for no additional postage charge. From every point of view, the Post-office Department has the best of it when it comes to good, reliable, and prompt service, coupled with a remarkable ability to reach the people and a hearty willingness to do it also.

The United States will probably continue in the postal business, even at a yearly loss in money, unless, at least, some private corporation can show more attractive inducements than the above quoted.

Commander Peary caught a cold just as soon as he "reached" Boston. It ought to avoid such very chilly atmospheres.

Really, it looks like Washington overlooked a good opportunity when it failed last fall to advertise itself as a winter resort.

There is a good deal of complaint about the scarcity of bills. However, you will get all that's coming to you on January 1.

"Dr. Crapsey is preparing a lecture," says a press dispatch. Did any one doubt it?

Rev. Edward T. Divine says he doesn't believe that Mayor Schmitt grafted a penny of the San Francisco relief fund. He thought that if he grafted the dollar, the pennies would take care of themselves.

Even Mr. Anthony Comstock must have laughed when all the facts were laid bare in our recent ambassadorial mix-up.

Congress demands a better scale of wages, but fails to display the rare wisdom of coupling with it a promise of shorter hours.

Just how the poor old money market is to get rescued when Secretary Shaw leaves the Treasury Department is a mystery.

A man has been sent to jail for stealing 4 cents' worth of sugar. If they caught him "with the goods on," it must have taken a very powerful microscope to find the sugar.

What's this? A lot of King Leopold's lobbyists rubbering around Congress?

Senator Rayner's fear that the President may bombard California is unnecessary. The real danger seems to be that California may decide to march on Washington with a battalion of earthquakes.

Notwithstanding Senator Burrow's great speech, it isn't true that the Senate has already ordered a 23 sign for Senator Smoot's buttonhole.

In his latest poem, Alfred Austin expresses a desire to die "in sword in hand." Some one kindly hand Alfred a sword?

Alaska is said to deplore the fact that "there are so few lawyers in that country." It probably would not be possible to get up a Thanksgiving Day celebration for anything in Alaska.

Politicians may find the newly invented wind-wagon handy for getting on the band wagon.

Mr. Roosevelt's idea that Bellamy would make "a corking ambassador" proved erroneous, but Bellamy undoubtedly scored as an un-corking ex-ambassador.

Why should the Senate have hesitated in confirming Mr. Bonaparte because of something he had said about the "seven years ago" Mr. Bonaparte has some one to help him along with his thinking these days.

Commander Peary says the weather was to blame for his failure to reach the pole. When all else fails, there is always the weather man to blame.

Every time Mr. Rockefeller takes a bunch of money out of one pocket and puts it in another, the report goes out that he has lost a few millions or so. He has never yet been known, however, to lose anything where he couldn't find it when wanted.

It now transpires that Chester Gillette's mother and father are both followers of John Alexander Dowie. So they are getting ready to enter the plea of hereditary insanity for Gillette, are they?

"If I love him, I will marry him," says Emma Calve, when her blind millionaire friend told her the man in the case can see any reason why she shouldn't.

Atlanta is making much ado about a robber in a silk hat, seen recently in that city. A robber in a silk hat is no novelty.

The Petersburg (Va.) Index-Appel says: "It is hard to get to the north pole and harder to get back." Sounds like expert evidence.

Proof Positive.
From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

It was a little male sparrow that hopped into the nest at about 4 a. m. His wife was awake, awaiting him. The little sparrow began his explanation. He had been detained at the office until late, and was so tired he slept downtown. But he had gotten up early and hurried home, and he was the lady sparrow looked him in the eye.

"You were up all last night with wicked companions," she cried, "and have just gotten into the nest to be bed to bed at all. You are a bad, late bird and not an early bird. Oh, why did I ever?"

But her mate interrupted her with an imperious gesture. "Behold the proof!" he exclaimed, exhibiting a worm.

As it is an ascertained fact that late birds never get worms, she was fain to accept the proof.

Warning.
From the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

If Mr. Roosevelt carries off any more of Mr. Bryan's clothes, how in the world will the colonel explain the situation to Anthony Comstock?

Has Use for His Beard.
From the Philadelphia Record.

Gov.-elect Hughes declines to cut off his whiskers. Probably he wants to be able to beard the bosses in their den.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

GET BUSY.

What are you going to buy?
No time to lose.
Is it a muffler, or a tie?
Hasten and choose.

The shopping stream, I trow,
Is getting strong.
There's lots of choice now,
But not for long.

Doth seek a haxbox trim?
A handsome fur?
Something, perchance, for him?
Something for her?

Get busy, then! Decide!
Stop not to plan.
For Christmas time and tide
Wait on no man.

Here's One.

"Speaking of automobile jokes."
"Well."
"The 1907 models are out."

Pronunciation.

"Quincy," eh? sneered the lanky traveler. "You Massachusetts people make me sick."

"Pray, where are you from?"
"Terry Hut."

Forbidden the House.

Now the urchin small must get
Out of doors to play.
He knows what that means, you bet!
Presents hid away.

Tis Here.

"Well, the saccharine subsequently has arrived at last."
"What do you mean?"
"The sweet buy and buy."

"What's yer tale uv woe?" demanded Tired Tiffins.
"I wuz thrown out of work," mumbled the recruit. "That's why I'm a hobo."

"Had to be thrown out, hey? My friend, years'll never be a hobo in a t'ousand years."

Not Too Deep.

"I court the deepest inquiry!" the irate statesman snorts. "At least, as deep an inquiry as anybody courts."

THE INNOCENT BYSTANDER.

PLAINT OF THE SUSPICIOUS MAN.

Everybody's good to me—
Just as good as they can be—
Just now.
Wife is gentle, kind, and sweet;
Gets just what I want to eat,
Murmurs that I won't repeat—
Just now.

Office boy is most polite—
Just now.
Wants to stay and work at night—
Just now.
Postman has a cherry hall
When he comes in with the mail,
Brings each package without fail—
Just now.

Cook is meeting every wish—
Just now.
Always get each longed-for dish—
Just now.
Children never make a noise—
"Quiet papa most enjoys!"—
They are splendid girls and boys—
Just now.

Friends are dropping in to call—
Just now.
Mighty pleasant, one and all—
Just now.
Telling me it's fine to see,
Such a cheerful chap as me,
Full of fun and jollity—
Just now.

Elevator boy wears smiles—
Just now.
Walters play their deepest wiles—
Just now.
Grocer does the best he can,
Butcher's boy is clean and sane,
For my comfort sent to plan—
Just now.

Oh, how fine it is to live—
Just now.
I've all the joys that life can give—
Just now.

What a difference there'll be
After Christmas—But you see,
Everybody's good to me—
Just now!

INDEPENDENT.

"A'minta," called Mistah Lucullus Ambrose Johnson to the wife of his bosom, "is yo gwine to git ready for de Demo?"

"Mebbe I is—when I gits ready," was the independent response.

"Well, honey, it's time yo' was a-gittin' ready."

"When I isn't gittin' ready."

"Well, yo' gwine ter git ready?"

"Yes, indeed, I does, honey. I gits ready to git ready. Dat's when I's gwine ter git ready!"

WILBUR NESBIT.

Auntie's Memory.

From Harper's Weekly.

An old colored woman down in Alabama was reported to be of great age, and was extremely proud of the distinction. The proprietor of a museum, on hearing of her, sent one of his agents to make an investigation, as she would be a valuable acquisition to his museum.

The fact is, however, that she was an all-around spelling reformer, and therefore is counting on his support of the Carnegie-Roosevelt movement when the House bill gets over to the Senate.

The Kansas Senatorship.

The Kansas contingent in Congress are becoming considerably worked up over a persistent story coming from their State to the effect that their senior Senator, Hon. Chester L. Long, is fixing the fences so that former Gov. W. J. Bailey will be elected to the Senate this winter to fill the unexpired term of the disgraced J. Ralph Burton, whose seat is now held by Hon. Alfred W. Benson on appointment of Gov. Hoch. Naturally, Senator Long denies the story and exhibits a good deal of indignation in doing so, but the mercenary Kansans are becoming excited over it just the same.

The new legislature will convene in the early part of January, and the Senatorial fight promises to be the interesting feature of the session. There are a half dozen or more avowed candidates, among them being Messrs. Curtis and Campbell, now members of the House; Joseph L. Bristow, who, as Fourth Assistant Postmaster General, directed the gathering of evidence against the Machen-Beverage game of Politics Department grafters; and W. R. Stubbs, one of the rising political forces in the Sunflower State. Ex-Gov. Bailey served several terms in the House before he was elected governor, and is best remembered by the pledge he made as a gubernatorial candidate that he would woo and win a wife if the Kansans would elect him governor. He kept the pledge, and Laura Jean Leuby would say "they lived happily ever afterward."

Which?

From the Cleveland Leader.

The burning question of the hour is whether the President has Congress on his hands or Congress has the President on its hands.

An Interesting Contrast.

From the Waterbury American.

Mr. Cleveland once wrote a message on the tariff alone. Mr. Roosevelt wrote one on every other subject in the world except the tariff.

One Point of Difference.

From the Atlanta Journal.

Garfield was a canal boy before he became President, but Mr. Roosevelt was President before he became canal boy.

CAPITOL GOSSIP.

Warren Sings an Old Ditty.

Senator Warren, of Wyoming, snipped through a basement hall of the Senate wing yesterday, merrily whistling a familiar old tune. A friend told him that the air was familiar, but that the words could not be readily recalled.

"It was the most popular ditty of its day a generation ago," said the Wyoming statesman, "and it's odd that you should have forgotten its words."

Then Senator Warren hummed the words:

"Oh, Maria! Oh, Maria! Maria, Come higher And sit by the fire! Oh, Maria!"

"Now, don't you remember it?" he inquired, adding, "That name, Maria, has got mixed up with more American politics than any other female name of all our cognomens."

The Senator then wandered on his way to the room of the Committee on Military Affairs, chuckling softly to himself while he whistled.

Kowalsky and His Fans.

Col. H. I. Kowalsky, the New York-San Francisco lawyer, who is just now getting a good deal of newspaper notoriety by reason of the discovery that he has been chief of the movement in the United States to prevent Congress from fulminating against the Congo Free State situation, is chiefly remembered by numerous statesmen on Capitol Hill by a peculiarity of his dieting habits.

Col. Kowalsky is much given to embonpoint, and when at his best weighs about 300 pounds. He is fond of good living and when here likes to give big dinners to such members of Congress as may favor him with their company. On more than one occasion he has had prepared elaborate feasts for his Washington guests, and though being the merriest member of the company, it has been observed that he did not always partake of the food served to his guests.

A statesman once remarked this and asked the colonel if illness prevented his eating. "Not at all," was the somewhat startling reply. "On the contrary, I am in robust health just at this moment as the result of not having tasted food for nearly a week. Whenever my flesh becomes burdensome I cut out food of all kinds altogether for a week or ten days. In that time I usually lose fifty pounds to a comfortable weight. I feel the deprivation for a day or two, but after I lose my hunger I have no desire whatever for food. The fast rests my stomach and at the same time takes the fat out of my flesh as if by magic. If all fat persons would do this they would be benefited. Man can subsist comfortably on accumulated and surplus flesh quite as well as can the bear."

Smoot Heard It All.

Senator Dubois yesterday made a terrific arraignment of the Mormon Church in general, and of Senator Reed Smoot in particular, in the course of a carefully prepared speech supporting the majority report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, recommending the exclusion of the Mormon Senator. The Idaho Senator's seat is in the outer circle on the Democratic side. That of Senator Smoot is in the outer circle on the Republican side.

Mr. Dubois walked over to the Republican side within ten feet of the Utah Senator before he began his speech, and from that vantage ground hurled thunderbolts of logic and invective squarely into the immobile face of the Mormon statesman. Mr. Smoot's face did not change expression once. He was not seen to wince or otherwise show the least feeling at any point in Mr. Dubois' speech. For more than two hours Senator Dubois hammered away at Mr. Smoot and the Mormon Church. The galleries were crowded, and Senators kept their seats in unusual number.

Mr. Smoot did not even make a note while Mr. Dubois was speaking. He seemed less concerned than anybody else on the floor. It is said that he feels confident of retaining his seat in spite of the report made against him by the majority of the committee, and that will be vindicated enough for him.

Reformed "Puerto Rico."

Appropos of the suggestion that Senator Foraker will be one of the leaders of the opposition to the Carnegie-Roosevelt reformed spelling movement, it is recalled that the Ohio statesman was at one time a spelling reformer.

Chairman of the Committee on Pacific Islands and Porto Rico, he early adopted the Anglicized or Englishized spelling of Porto Rico, which in all the old geographies is spelled "Puerto Rico," meaning rich port. In all of the reports he made pertaining to the new insular possession he was careful to employ the reformed orthography.

Under his inspiration Congress passed a bill prescribing that the island should be known by its Anglicized name. President Roosevelt, a few days ago, it is said, dropped the distinguished Ohio statesman from the committee, and he has been upon the various reforms he had instituted in Porto Rico, not the least of these, it is presumed, being the reform of the island's orthography enforced by Senator Foraker.

Thus the reform is supposed to be on its way to being reversed. It is recalled that Foraker is an all-around spelling reformer, and therefore is counting on his support of the Carnegie-Roosevelt movement when the House bill gets over to the Senate.

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OUR FINANCIAL COLOSSUS.

Discussion of the Power Exercised by Secretary of the Treasury.

From the New York Sun.

The United States deserves pity if it be true that year after year, in seemingly prosperous times, it is saved from business and financial disaster by the Secretary of the Treasury. If the country cannot carry on its business successfully without the interposition of the Federal Treasury; if the Secretary, the god from the Federal machine, has to step in and protect business from a panic and then the country is peculiarly unfortunate, and its business is conducted by unsafe and precarious methods.

No Secretary of the Treasury has been quicker to lend a helping hand than the amiable gentleman from Iowa. No Secretary has been more liberal in interpreting the "lacking laws," but has occasion always been worthy of the god. Is it the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to relieve financial stringencies created by essentially wild